

MARKED UP COPY OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Twice Amended) A method of reducing zones of high tensile stress in the surface of a part comprising the steps of:

selecting a region of the part to be treated; and

exerting a variable pressure against the surface of the selected region, the pressure being applied such that the magnitude of compression decreases in the direction towards the boundaries of the selected region to minimize the effects of any tensile stress zones near the boundaries.

9. (Twice Amended) A method of reducing high tensile stress zones in the surface of a part comprising the steps of:

selecting a region of the part to be treated; and

programming a control unit of a burnishing apparatus to perform a burnishing operation, the burnishing operation being performed such that the density of burnishing, [and] the magnitude of compression, and the pressure being applied against the surface are varied to reduce the high tensile stress zones along the boundaries of the selected region.